October 6, 1969

Dr. Eric B. Chandler, ACSW
Supervisor, Research & Statistics
State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division on Civil Rights
52 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Dear Dr. Chandler:

Thank you for your interesting letter. We are sending by separate mail three copies of the article to which you refer and a copy of the next issue whose "Letters" column contains additional information on early Negroes at Middlebury.

We are aware, of course, that Mr. Chandler, Jr. has been doing important community work in Cleveland; this was not mentioned because we felt we could not begin to report on the subsequent careers of more recent graduates in that story without the account becoming unwieldy. So we tried to cover the "firsts", only. Whether other sons or daughters of alumni Negroes have attended, I'm afraid I don't know. It's been part of the liberal tradition, as you know, to ignore racial origins when keeping records; this makes it now extremely difficult to establish, merely from college records, which of our students were Negro.

Since I wrote that article I have found that Martin Freeman from Rutland graduated from Middlebury in 1849 and took his master's degree, here, soon thereafter thus being, so far as I now know, the first Negro to attend this college. He taught in Avery College, Pittsburgh for nine years and then was appointed professor of mathematics at Liberia College in Monrovia, where after five years he became president, serving for 21 years until his death in 1889.

We had a very pleasant letter from Mr. Holley '25 a few month's back. One of his classmates, Cornelius Palmer from Cape May but now of New York City, has recently established a scholarship here at Middlebury.

Cordially,

Gregor Hileman
Editor, News Letter

GH/ak
bc: Gordon Perine